

SPENNYMOOR
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1949.

TOGETHER WITH THE SUMMARY
OF WORK OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS

Chairman of the Council, 1949-50
Councillor H. Watcham, J. P.

Vice Chairman :
Councillor W. Hirst.

Chairman of Health Committee :
Councillor G. H. Barrett.

Vice Chairman :
Councillor Mrs M. Corner.

Chairman of Housing Committee :
Councillor T. W. Marley.

Vice Chairman :
Councillor F. Coverdale.

—————**COUNCILLORS**—————

W. Lindsay, T. Sugden, Mrs B. Dobson, G. Thompson
F. Steel, J. A. R. Clark, J. Kelly, T. Murray,
J. C. Glasper, E. Bell, B. Taylor, H. J. Burke,
R. R. Burton, T. Mulloy, T. N. Mould.

—————**Public Health Officers of the Authority**—————

Medical Officer of Health (Part Time) :
Dr S. V. Tinsley, M.B. Ch.B, J.P.

Sanitary Inspectors :
M. W. Swales, M.R. San. I., A.M.I S.E.
G. Blenkinsop, Cert. S.I.B.

Clerical Assistant :
J. B. Storey.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Spennymoor.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In presenting my 26th Annual Report of the year 1949, I should like to draw your attention to the satisfactory Vital Statistics of the Urban Area which compare favourably with the National figures. Our Infantile Mortality rate however, is still rather high, but I am glad to say, shows a considerable reduction on last year. The number of Conversions to the "Water Carriage System" is disappointing in view of the large number of Ash-closets in the District, and I sincerely trust the increase of grants now being considered by the Council will lead to very considerable improvement in this respect.

The Housing Committee is making good progress in the building of new houses, and I hope in the near future to see a resumption in our large Slum Clearance Scheme which has been held up by the War and the large number of sub-tenants in the Area.

The rate of employment has been satisfactory throughout the year and there has been little unemployment in either Male or Female labour. The Remploi Factory establishment in this Area is bringing valuable training to the Disabled, and it is very pleasing to me to see old friends receiving a new outlook on life and their self confidence restored.

Population :-

The Registrar General's figure calculated to the middle of 1949 gives the resident population of the District as 19,760. This figure represents an increase of only 40 on the previous year and 720 on the 1939 figure.

The approximate population of the various Wards of the District is :-

Spennymoor Ward	4,671
Low Spennymoor Ward	3,636
Middlestone Moor Ward	1,694
Kirk Merrington Ward	889
Byers Green Ward	1,627
Tudhoe Ward	<u>7,243</u>
	19,760

Area :-

The District covers 7,494 acres and includes the villages of Middlestone Moor, Byers Green and Kirk Merrington, with an acreage of :-

Spennymoor Ward	168 acres
Low Spennymoor Ward	551 acres
Middlestone Moor Ward	1,349 acres
Kirk Merrington Ward	1,612 acres
Byers Green Ward	1,115 acres
Tudhoe Ward	2,699 acres

Inhabited Houses :-

The estimated number of inhabited houses in the District according to our records at the end of December 1949 was 5,656.

Rateable Value :-

The Rateable Value of the District according to the Rating Officer is £75,867 and the product of a penny rate £285, 13s, 1½d.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births :-</u>	Births 1949			Birth Rate
	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	208	206	414	21.91
Illegitimate	11	8	19	
	219	214	433	

<u>Still Births :-</u>	Male	Female	Total	Still Birth Rate
Legitimate	4	3	7	} 46
Illegitimate	1	1	2	
	5	4	9	

For comparative purposes the rates are given for the three previous years and for the three years immediately prior to the War :-

1936	Live Births	271	giving a Birth Rate of 17.5 per 1,000
	Still Births	18	„ „ „ „ „ 1.17 „ „
1937	Live Births	318	„ „ „ „ „ 17.20 „ „
	Still Births	16	„ „ „ „ „ .86 „ „
1938	Live Births	319	„ „ „ „ „ 16.50 „ „
	Still Births	9	„ „ „ „ „ 46 „ „
1946	Live Births	454	„ „ „ „ „ 24.26 „ „
	Still Births	20	„ „ „ „ „ 1.06 „ „
1947	Live Births	452	„ „ „ „ „ 23.95 „ „
	Still Births	9	„ „ „ „ „ .47 „ „
1948	Live Births	415	„ „ „ „ „ 21.04 „ „
	Still Births	6	„ „ „ „ „ .30 „ „

Extracts with National Statistics are given for Comparative purposes :-

	Spennymoor District	England & Wales	126 County Boroughs	148 Smaller Towns.
Births	21.91	16.7	18.7	18.0
Still Births	.46	0.39	0.47	0.40

The Birth Rate has improved by .87 per 1,000 on the previous year. The Still Births have unfortunately increased by .16 per 1,000 to a figure which shows great fluctuations in this figure during the post-war period.

Deaths--1949

	Male	Female	Total	Rate
Deaths	105	110	215	10·88
Infantile	9	7	16	36·95
Mortality				per 1,000 births

Pre-war and Post-war periods are enumerated for comparison

1936	Deaths	193 deaths giving a rate of 12·16 per 1,000				
	Infantile	21	„	„	„	77·5 per 1,000
	Mortality	Births				
1937	Deaths	236 deaths giving a rate of 12·80 per 1,000				
	Infantile	24	„	„	„	75·47 per 1,000
	Mortality	Births				
1938	Deaths	239 deaths giving a rate of 12·30 per 1,000				
	Infantile	17	„	„	„	53·03 per 1,000
	Mortality	Births				
1946	Deaths	233 deaths giving a rate of 12·45 per 1,000				
	Infantile	21	„	„	„	48·68 per 1,000
	Mortality	Births				
1947	Deaths	224 deaths giving a rate of 11·87 per 1,000				
	Infantile	17	„	„	„	37·61 per 1,000
	Mortality	Births				
1948	Deaths	220 deaths giving a rate of 11·15 per 1,000				
	Infantile	21	„	„	„	50·40 per 1,000
	Mortality	Births				

National & Local Statistics (comparisons)

	Spennymoor District	England & Wales	126 County Boroughs	148 Smaller Towns
Deaths	10·88	11·7	12·5	11·6
Infantile	36·95	32	37	30
Mortality	per 1,000 births			

It will be noted that the District Death Rate compares very favourably with National Statistics and is the lowest we have had since the War. The Infantile Mortality Rate continues to be high for the Area, it does however, show a substantial reduction on the previous year.

The statistics for the District on the whole are very satisfactory and reflect a virile population with births about double the number of deaths. Comparison with Pre-war years gives cause for satisfaction.

Causes of Death

	Males	Females
ALL CAUSES	105	110
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	5	6
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	2
Influenza	—	1
Acute infectious Encephalitis	—	—
Cancer of buc : & cav ; & œsoph ; (M) uterus (F)	1	1
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	2	5
Cancer of breasts	—	3
Cancer of all other sites	7	3
Diabetes	1	2
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	11	18
Heart disease	33	44
Other diseases of circulatory System	5	2
Bronchitis	6	2
Pneumonia	6	6
Other respiratory diseases	—	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	—
Appendicitis	1	—
Other digestive diseases	4	3
Nephritis	1	—
Premature Birth	1	2
Other maternal causes	—	1
Congenital malformation : births		
injuries : Infant : dis :	6	3
Suicide	1	—
Road Traffic Accident	2	—
Other violent causes	3	1
All other causes	5	4

SPENNYMOOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Health Department,
Town Hall,
Spennymoor,
Co. Durham.

26th September, 1950.

Dear Sir(s)/Madam,

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1949.

With reference to the above Annual Report forwarded to you on the 25th September, I beg to draw your attention to Page 7 - re Tuberculosis 1949 :-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non Pulmonary</u>
Males	78	24
Females	75	31
	<u>139</u>	<u>55</u>

Please note ~~the~~ above should read :-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non Pulmonary</u>
Males	78	24
Females	75	31
	<u>153</u>	<u>55</u>

and shall be obliged if you would please amend your copy.

Yours faithfully,

S. V. TINSLEY,
Medical Officer of Health.

Tuberculosis 1949

The following cases remained on the Register at the end of the year :-

	Pulmonary	Non Pulmonary
Males	78	24
Females	75	31
	~~139~~ 153	55

An increase of 14 Pulmonary cases on the Register has taken place : the Non Pulmonary cases remain constant. I am of the opinion that the increase in Pulmonary cases was to a large extent, due to medical investigations carried out upon reports obtained from the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit in December, 1948, when 35 suspected cases were referred to Medical Practitioners for further investigation.

The number of deaths from the disease represents 7.21% of the cases on the Register. With the exception of the low figure for last year, this represents about the average for the District during the immediate pre-war and post-war periods.

The number of known Tuberculosis cases in the District represents 1.05% of the population and is an increase of .07% on the previous year.

Summary of Infectious Diseases notifications.

	Under one yr.	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25 yrs & over
Scarlet Fever	—	8	15	52	16	2	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—	5	4	1	2
Tuberculosis							
Males							
Pulmonary	—	—	1	1	—	1	10
Non Pulmonary	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Females							
Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	5	8
Non Pulmonary	—	1	1	1	1	—	2

Tabular Statement of the Notification of other
Infectious Diseases in the District during the year.

Diseases	Cases Notified
Scabies	16
Whooping Cough	48
Acute Poliomyelitis	—
Acute Pneumonia	18
Measles	180
Erysipelas	8
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—
Scarlet Fever	94
Diphtheria	12
Chicken Pox	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than TUBERCULOSIS) during 1949.
MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFICATIONS.

Disease	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Smallpox	7	12	13	4	6	9	16	4	10	7	5	1	94
Scarlet Fever	1	—	1	2	—	—	5	2	1	—	—	—	12
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	1	1	1	2	1	2	—	1	1	—	5	18
Erysipelas	2	—	2	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	2	8
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	37	4	2	10	21	23	41	8	—	—	3	31	180
Chicken Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Whooping Cough	15	9	2	3	4	3	—	—	1	3	4	4	48
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pemphigus Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Monthly Totals	65	26	21	20	33	37	65	15	13	11	13	43	362

NOTIFICATIONS BY WARDS (CIVILIAN).

	Spenny moor	Low Spenny moor	Middlestone Moor	Byers Green	Kirk Merrington	Tudhoe	Total
Scarlet Fever	27	7	3	3	1	53	94
Diphtheria	1	7	1	1	—	2	12
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	—	6	—	9	18
Pneumonia	4	1	—	—	—	3	8
Erysipelas	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	21	11	37	37	2	72	180
Chicken Pox	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	6	7	3	11	3	18	48
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis :-							
Pulmonary	12	—	1	2	—	11	26
Non Pulmonary	2	3	—	—	—	2	7

Diphtheria Immunisation :-

As the County Council is now responsible for arrangements for the immunisation of the child population, it is not possible to include details of this work. The Registrar General and the County Authority have, however, supplied the following particulars:-

	Age 0-4 years inclusive	Age 5-14 years inclusive
(1) Estimated number of Children Residing in the Area, 30th June, 1949	1,971	3,123
(2) Total number of Children Immunised during 1949	176	11

Scabies :-

The Council has continued the treatment of Scabies patients at the Cleansing Centre, Cheapside, Spennymoor from this district and the adjoining Sedgfield Rural District. also part of Crook & Willington Urban District.

The County Authority has taken over the greater part of the building as a Clinic. We have, therefore, been compelled to limit treatment to single sexes at each bi-weekly session

There is every indication that the severity of this infestation is greatly reduced. The cases treated are now usually of a mild character and the numbers have reduced considerably. Comparative figures are given of cases treated during the last three years :-

	1947	1948	1949
Spennymoor U. D Area-cases	88	42	16
treatments	135	80	32
Sedgfield R. D. Area-cases	35	31	38
treatments	90	69	72
Crook & Willington			
U D. Area-cases	1	1	3
treatments	1	3	3

Although the number of cases treated has declined, it has not been possible to make corresponding reductions in the expenses of maintaining this Centre. The costs per treatment have gradually risen and it is now estimated at £2 per treatment. In view of this expence to this and the adjoining districts, I am of the opinion that the time is opportune to close the Centre and any future cases coming to the notice of medical practitioners can receive adequate treatment under the National Health Service.

Ambulance Service :-

The County Authority is responsible for this service under the National Health Act. Previous to the passing of this Act, the Urban Council operated a very successful service.

The Ambulance Service is now available free of charge to all residents, and it now appears to be operating quite efficiently after overcoming shortages of suitable vehicles and staff.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District

SUMMARY OF NOTICES AND WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT, DURING THE YEAR 1949.

I. Public Health Acts :-

		Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notices
Dwelling-houses and Schools	Foul Conditions	2	—	1
	Structural- Defects	122	30	85
	Overcrowding	1	—	—
Ashpits and Privies	...	35	4	33
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	1	—	1
Waterclosets	...	2	—	2
House Drainage Other Faults	...	309	2	311
Water Supply	...	5	4	3
Pigsties	...	6	—	6
Animals Improperly Kept	...	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	...	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	..	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	..	10	—	9
	Totals	493	40	451

II. Water, Food and Drugs

Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	10
„ condemned as unfit for use		1
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	...	—
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food	..	—
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis	...	—
„ found Adulterated	...	—

III Precautions against Infectious Disease :-

Lots of Infectious Bedding stored or destroyed	...	112
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	145
Schools disinfected after Infectious Diseases	...	1

IV General

Number of New Houses erected during the year	...	134
Number of such Houses occupied during the year	...	134
Ashpit-prives converted into Ash-closets	...	—
“ “ “ “ “ Water-closets	...	—
Ash-closets “ “ “ “ “	...	46
Total number of Water-closets in District	...	2,157
“ “ “ “ “ Ash-closets “ “	...	3,540
“ “ “ “ “ Ash-pit privies “ “	...	83

Infestation :-

The London Fumigation Company has continued to fumigate the furniture and effects of all new tenants to Council property. This work is carried out during transit from the old to the new houses, by using hydrogen cyanite and the condition of the interior of the vans after carrying out this work, shows striking proof of the efficiency of the treatment and the need for its use

The Council also undertakes the fumigation of older property at request of the occupants or the owners, this work being undertaken by Council Staff. The largest number of requests is for beetle eradication. 14 verminous houses have been treated during the year.

Rodent Control :-

The Council employs a part-time Rodent Operator to carry out the duties delegated to it in this connection. In addition to dealing with surface infestations in private and business premises, the operator also carried out systematic treatment of sewers, disposal works and refuse tips.

The Council Operator is capable in his work and his training has been kept up to date by attendance at frequent refresher courses, held by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The operator's health however, is such that he is often absent through illness when his services are required for this work. The consequent delays in carrying out effective treatments often result in higher infestations of the property concerned.

The work carried out by the Rodent Operator is tabulated below :-

	<u>Estimated Killed</u>	<u>Bodies Found</u>
Shops and Business premises	485	450
Private Property	84	58

Meat and Other Foods Inspections, Transport and Handling :-

The Ministry of Food has continued the slaughter of all animals for human consumption at the slaughter house at Bishop Auckland. The carcasses are conveyed by lorry to an allocation centre in this District and then distributed to the various butchers. The frequent handling of this meat does not improve its quality or fitness for consumption and renders the meat and offal liable to increased contamination. It has been necessary to draw the attention of the Ministry of Food of this contamination in transit of the meat and offal in the District. As a result, an improvement has been found in this handling. It is appreciated that Ministry of Food desire centralisation for administrative purposes, but the quality of the product to the consumer should be the primary consideration, and I am of the opinion that this could be greatly improved by slaughtering for this District in a slaughterhouse in the District and the meat and offal being allocated from such premises and removed by the butchers' own vehicles to their premises.

A considerable number of inspections of Cottages' pigs have been carried out when slaughtered at the feeders' premises or recognised slaughter houses. Quantities of meat were examined at the request of butchers, and certificates issued to obtain replacement meat, when found to be necessary. Tinned foods were also inspected and Condemnation Certificates issued where necessary.

The following is a list of the food for which certificates were issued :-

156½ lbs of Meat submitted by Butchers.

2 Carcases for Bacon (Generalised Tuberculosis) Owners advised to destroy-carried out.

334 Tins of Miscellaneous foodstuffs.

8¾ lbs Chicken.	52 lbs Figs.
25 lbs Sausage.	66 lbs Dried Apricots.
37 lbs Bacon.	70 lbs Cheese.
56 lbs Smoked Fillett.	7 lbs Farinoca
98 lbs Cod	51 lbs Prunes.
15 lbs Monk Fish.	8 lbs Apple Rings.
49 lbs Barley Flakes.	5 lbs Jelly.
¾ lb Lard.	1 lbs Margarine.
22½ lbs Lemon Peel.	4 lbs Lump Sugar.
19¾ lbs Gorgonzola Cheese.	10 lbs Beef Brawn.
2½ lbs Brown Sugar.	9 doz Sponge Puddings.
2 lbs Black Pudding.	18 Medium Size Cakes.

Many traders in the District have again co-operated with the Council in combating the fly menace by lime-washing their premises with a mixture containing D. D. T. Powder, supplied by the Council. Painted and glazed surfaces were sprayed with an appropriate solution. This treatment has been used for three years by a good proportion of the traders and with excellent results.

The Council are taking steps to adopt the Model Bye-laws with respect to the Transport and Handling of Food, also they have been assured of the full support of the Chamber of Trade, in the formation of a Food Traders Guild : steps are now being taken to form a Committee for this purpose.

Water Supply :-

With the exception of isolated property the whole of the Urban District is served by a piped supply by the Durham County Water Board. Certain parts of the District do not enjoy good supplies of water, apparently due to internal corrosion of mains and services, also complaints have been received of sediment in the Water and samples have been taken. The results of these samples were communicated to the Water Board, steps being taken by them to flush the appropriate mains.

Particulars of the Chemical and Bacteriological examinations of samples taken during the year are enumerated :-

CHEMICAL EXAMINATIONS, 1949.

Place from which Sample was obtained.	date of Sample	Parts per 100,000								Degrees		Colour of Sample on Hazel Scale.	Appearance of sample in FT Tube	Odour when heated to 50 °C	Remarks
		Chlorine as Chlorides	Nitrogen as Nitrates	Ammonia	Albuminoid Ammonia	Oxygen Absorption.	Injurious Metals	Total Solid Matter Dried at 100 °C	pH Value of Sample	Temporary Hardness.	Permanent Hardness.				
21. Chapel St., Low Spennymoor. Main Supply	28/6/49	1.1250	.0288	.0051	.0126	.2882	None	7.0000	6.9	2.2	2.6	36	Not quite clear	None	Satisfactory
Three Horse-Shoes Inn, Kirk Merrington. Main supply.	28/6/49	1.1500	.0295	.0042	.0100	.2877	None	9.0000	6.9	0.7	3.5	36	Not quite clear	None	Satisfactory
Tap on Main, Well Cottages, Windlestone	5/8/49	1.1750	.0165	.0020	.0070	.1657	None	13.0000	6.9	1.4	3.2	25	Not quite bright	None	Unsatisfactory
Tap off Main 14, Grayson Rd., Spennymoor.	5/8/49	1.1500	.0227	.0031	.0100	.2554	None	10.0000	6.9	0.5	3.8	33	Not quite bright	None	Satisfactory
Tap on Main, Near Well Cottages, Windlestone	25/8/49	1.2000	.0115	.0033	.0042	.2086	None	6.0000	6.9	1.8	2.6	32	Slightly Cloudy	None	Unsatisfactory
Spring Supply Burton Beck Farm Whitworth	9/9/49	2.8500	.0015	.0082	.0055	.0340	None	51.0000	7.0 after Boiling 8.9	12.65	6.15	4	Not quite clear	None	Unsatisfactory
Pond Supply, Gornalls Farm, High Whitworth	9/9/49	5.2550 On Filtered sample	.0010	.1829	.4050	1.3094	None	50.0000	7.3	15.00	2.9	38	Turbid	Strong Veg'ble	Grossly Polluted
West View, Binchester Moor	2/11/49	1.1500	.0313	.0019	.0200	.5503	None	13.000	6.3	0.5	2.5	27	Not clear	Slightly Earthy	Unsatisfactory
27, King Street, Spennymoor.	2/11/49	1.0750	.0240	.0015	.0168	.0424	None	7.0000	6.3	0.6	2.4	27	Rather Turbid	Slightly Veg'ble	Mains to Flush

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS 1949.

Place from which sample was obtained	Date of Sample	Number of Colonies on Nutrient Agar at 37°C after 72 hours	Number of Colonies on Nutrient Agar at 26-22°C after 72 hours	Presumptive B. Coli Test at 37°C after 72 hours	Clostridium Welchii Test at 45°C in 40 MI
21, Chapel St., Low Spennymoor Main Supply	28/6/49	5 in 2 ml.	10 per ml	Negative in 100 ml.	Negative
Three Horseshoes Inn, Kirk Merrington Main Supply	28/6/49	1 in 2 ml.	17 per ml.	Negative in 100 ml.	Negative
Tap on Main, Well Cottages, Windlestone	5/8/49	40 per ml.	250 per ml.	Positive in 10 ml	Negative
Tap off Main, 14 Grayson Rd., Sp'moor.	25/8/49	8 per ml.	67 per ml.	Negative in 100 ml.	Negative
Tap on Main, Near Well Cottages, Windlestone	5/8/49	57 per ml.	567 per ml.	Positive in 10 ml.	Thirteen small Colonies.
Spring Supply Burton Beck Farm, Whitworth	9/9/49	1 in 2 ml.	2 per ml.	Negative in 100 ml.	Negative
Pond Supply, Gornalls Farm, High Whitworth	9/9/49	61 per ml.	62 per ml.	Positive in 0.01 ml.	6 Large, 9 Medium, 63 Small and 17 Minute Colonies
West View, Binchester Moor	2/11/49	22 per ml.	250 per ml.	Positive in 50 ml.	Negative.
27, King Street, Spennymoor	2/11/49	26 per ml.	354 per ml.	Positive in 30 ml.	3 Medium and 1 Small Colony.

The whole of the District is sewered to sewage disposal works at Byers Green and Tudhoe. Kirk Merrington Ward is drained to disposal works at Leasingthorne operated jointly by this Council and Bishop Auckland Urban District Council.

A small number of cesspools serving isolated property have been regularly inspected and cleansed

Many private drains are found to be frequently choked and indicate defective condition. A large number of complaints are received and the necessary action is taken to secure the removal of the obstructions and the making good of defects found. When we are again allowed to take action under Sections 11 and 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 with respect to the houses served by such drains, the resultant clearance will reduce the work in this connection.

The Council is endeavouring to obtain sanction to carry out the re-sewering of the Kirk Merrington Ward in conjunction with similar work under the Bishop Auckland U. D. Council at Leasingthorne.

Refuse and Salvage Collections and Disposal .-

This service is carried out by direct labour, four lorries and five carts being used for this purpose; another lorry is used solely for the collection of Salvage and Trade Refuse.

The refuse collected is heavy, due to the stones taken from the coal allocated to many miners. It is also extremely foul and wet from the many ashclosets still remaining. The receptacles serving the property at the end of the year were :- 2,157 Dustbins; 3,540 Ash-closets & 83 Privy Ashpits

During the year it is estimated that the above vehicles collected and removed to tips situated at Tudhoe Colliery, Middlestone Moor and Byers Green, House Refuse as follows.

5,720 Cart Loads of an average weight of 19 cwts, 1 qr, per load	...	5,505 tons
4,284 Lorry Loads of an average weight of 2 tons, 15 cwts, 3 qrs, per load	...	11,941 tons
852 Cart Loads removed by Hired Carts of an average weight of 19 cwts, 1 qr, per load		820 tons
Total Refuse removed per Annum	...	18,266 tons

The type of receptacle to be emptied and the offensive nature of the refuse renders the work very difficult; not more than two men can be employed upon any vehicle and the maintenance of vehicles and equipment is high.

During the year only 46 Ashclosets were converted to the "Water Carriage System", the Council making a grant of £3 10s 0d towards the cost of each conversion. We cannot expect any reduction in the cost of Scavenging until we are allowed to carry out large conversion schemes. It is hoped that the Council will consider increasing the grant towards individual conversions, with a view to encouraging more owners to undertake this work.

Salvage is collected at the same time as refuse, sacks being used for this purpose. No trouble has been experienced during the year in the disposal of salvage; tins and paper form the bulk of this material. As our storage capacity is limited we have been fortunate in obtaining immediate disposal by dealing with large consumers.

During the year the following materials were collected and sold :-

	Tons	Cwts
Waste Paper	135	17 $\frac{3}{4}$
Kitchen Waste	3	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Flattened Tins	11	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bones	—	19
Textiles : Rags etc.	—	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Light Metal Scrap	4	9 $\frac{1}{2}$

Waste paper collections have been maintained at a satisfactory level and contributed £788 16s 7d towards our total income from Salvage of £831 18s 9d.

The collection of Waste Food has continued, although its sale does not cover more than a fraction of the collection costs. Scrap tins are flattened and disposed of as such to the Steel Works, they are difficult to handle and carriage charges are high. Their separation from the Refuse keeps the tips in a much more satisfactory condition.

The Council's contract with the Board Mills for the supply of baled waste paper will expire in 1950. It is hoped that we will be able to obtain another 5 year contract.

Housing :-

For information, the Council's pre-war and post-war Housing Programme is summarised below :-

Clearance and Individual Unfit Property :-

Period 1935-36

The Council dealt with by Clearance.	175 Houses
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Period 1937-39

Under Section 25, Housing Act, 1936

The Council dealt with	506 Houses
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Under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936

The Council dealt with	51 Houses
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New Houses :-

Period 1936-38

Council and North Eastern Housing Association.

North Eastern Housing Association.

Erected	280 Houses
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Urban Council erected	66 Houses
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Period 1945-48.

North Eastern Housing Association.

Erected	...	...	112 Houses
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Urban District Council.

Erected	...	...	426 Houses
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Tenants removed from property scheduled under.

Section 11 and 25 of the Housing Act, 1936	66 Houses
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The immediate building programme of the Council provides for the erection of the following :-

Tudhoe Moor Estate	...	...	...	120 Houses
York Hill Estate	...	...	...	102 Houses
Durham Road Site	...	...	approx	40 Houses
Kirk Merrington Estate	...	...	...	48 Houses
Middlestone Moor Estate	...	...	approx	300 Houses

During the year, 424 applications were received for houses, bringing the total since December, 1945, to 2,172.

In conjunction with the adjoining districts, the Council have agreed to consider the exchange of Council tenants, to bring the applicants nearer to their work. One Application with the Sedgfield Rural District Council has been successfully arranged

152 families were removed to the North Eastern Housing Association and Council property during the year : of this number, 2, were Key Workers at the Trading Estate, Spennymoor.

Very careful consideration is being given by the Council to the adoption of a new Pointing System, to smooth out anomalies found to have risen with the previous Pointing System. When this System is finally agreed to, it will be used for the general selection of applicants.

The houses erected and occupied during the year consist of aged peoples bungalows; two and three bedroomed types. The George Street Development Site of 50 houses now in progress, consists of Aged Peoples flats; two and four bed-roomed houses. Tudhoe Moor Estate will be completed in 1950 with two and four bedroomed houses.

The variation of types of houses upon an estate, although more expensive to construct, provides a pleasant change to an estate consisting of all one type and elevation. Prospective occupants are taken from several waiting lists, thus removing any impression of preference for any particular group of applicants.

Factories Act, 1937 :-

One complaint has been received during the year by H. M. Inspector of Factories of contraventions in a factory. This complaint was investigated and remedied; several visits were made to premises registered under Part 1 of the above Act, and found to be carried on in a satisfactory manner, with the exception of one food preparing establishment, which is now the subject of consideration by the council.

S. V. TINSLEY,
Medical Officer of Health.

M. W. SWALES,
Sanitary Inspector.

